



MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

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Anthony G. Brown
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Robert M. Summers, Ph.D.
Deputy Secretary

March 12, 2010

The Honorable Maggie L. McIntosh, Chairman
Environmental Matters Committee
House Office Building, Room 251
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

Re: House Bill 1230 – Task Force to Develop Strategies to Encourage Recycling and Reduce Litter in Maryland's Waterways

Dear Chairman McIntosh:

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE or "the Department") Land Management Administration has reviewed House Bill 1230, entitled *Task Force to Develop Strategies to Encourage Recycling and Reduce Litter in Maryland's Waterways*, and we would like to express our support for the objectives of the proposed Task Force while opposing the bill due to the resource burden it would pose on MDE.

The Department is supportive of many concepts that would result in reduced waste disposal, increased recycling, and additional litter controls. The issues to be studied by the Task Force are relevant and the Department appreciates the sponsors' interest in addressing them. However, the Department's staff would have to set aside other priority duties in order to provide staff support for this Task Force. It is also noted that the Department would not be a member of this Task Force, yet the Department would likely be called upon to provide extensive research and data on the issues to be studied, without being able to provide input on the recommendations of this body.

Waste diversion and recycling saves energy, reduces greenhouse gasses and other pollutants generated in the manufacturing process and at landfills, saves natural resources, and reduces the amount of waste disposed. Even in times of lowered market returns on recyclables, there are avoided disposal costs associated with recycling. Finding ways to reduce litter also protect public health and the environment.

Thank you for your consideration. We will continue to monitor House Bill 1230 during the Committee's deliberations, and I am available to answer any questions you may have. Please feel free to contact me at 410-537-3304 or by e-mail at htablada@mde.state.md.us if I can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

Horacio Tablada, Director
Land Management Administration

cc: The Honorable John A. Olszewski, Jr.
Shari T. Wilson, Secretary
Heather Barthel, Director of Legislation and Policy
Lisa Nissley, Legislative Liaison/Environmental Justice Coordinator